

**MAY 27 1955**

**Mr. Roger W. Jones  
Assistant Director for  
Legislative Reference  
Bureau of the Budget  
Washington 25, D. C.**

DOCUMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒  
☐ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S G  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTH: HR 10-2  
DATE: **29 APR 1981** REVIEWER:  **STAT**

**Dear Mr. Jones:**

**The Central Intelligence Agency has received a request from Chairman William L. Dawson, of the House Committee on Government Operations, for this Agency's comments on H. R. 3755, a bill to amend the Federal Property & Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended.**

**It is requested that this Agency be authorized to submit the attached reply to the Committee.**

**Sincerely yours,**

Attachment  
OGC:WLP/blc  
Orig. & 1 - Add.  
2 - Signer ☒  
1 - DD/S  
1 - Chief, Management

**Walter L. Pforzheimer  
Legislative Counsel**

CONCUR:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Management Staff

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Director/Support

*27 May '55* **STAT**

**STAT**

*14 June '55  
Mary Sabin, Legislative  
Reference, Bur. of Budget,  
informed this office by phone  
there is no objection to  
our draft.*

Draft - 23 May 1955

The Honorable William L. Dawson  
Chairman, Committee on Government Operations  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

DOCUMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒  
☐ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C STAT  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 29 APR 1981 REVIEWER:

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in reply to your letter of 10 February 1955, requesting our comments on H. R. 3755, a Bill "To amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, and for other purposes".

Insofar as the Central Intelligence Agency is concerned, it is our opinion that the Director already possesses the authority to destroy any intelligence records in times of such emergencies as are contemplated in H. R. 3755 by virtue of the authority granted under Section 102(d)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947 (P. L. 253 - 80th Congress), which states "that the Director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure." This authority would certainly appear to cover a situation where there is a possibility that classified intelligence records might fall into hostile hands.

Furthermore, Section 502(d)(17) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 provides that nothing in that Act shall impair or affect any authority of the Central Intelligence Agency. Therefore, as far as this Agency is concerned H. R. 3755 would be in addition to the legal authority which we presently possess.

Under present world conditions, however, it would appear to be highly desirable that Government officials be clothed with the

authority contemplated by H. R. 3755, so that documents in the general field of the national security could be destroyed when there is imminence of hostile action at the place where such records are located.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

Approved For Release 2003/03/07 : CIA-RDP80R01731R001600100045-9

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Legislative Counsel

FROM : Chief, Management Staff

SUBJECT: H. R. 3755


DATE: FEB 21 1955

1. This proposed amendment to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 broadens the emergency disposal powers of heads of Federal agencies presently contained in the Records Disposal Act of 7 July 1943 (57 Stat. 380-383; 59 Stat. 434) by permitting emergency destruction of records within the continental limits of the United States. At present, the legal right to perform such destruction is limited to records outside the territorial limits of the United States.

2. Under present world conditions, it is highly desirable that government officials be legally empowered to order the destruction of sensitive records in times of emergency at home as well as abroad. The provisions of the proposed bill in no way conflict with the records management program conducted by this Agency.



STAT

DOCUMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒  
☐ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S ☒  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTH: HR 702  
DATE: 29 APR 1981 REVIEWER: 

STAT

23 February 1955

The Honorable William L. Dawson  
Chairman  
Committee on Government Operations  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 10 February 1955, in which you requested a report from this Agency on H. R. 3755, a Bill "To amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, and for other purposes".

This bill has been brought to the attention of appropriate members of this Agency, and we will again be in touch with you as soon as our comments have been prepared.

Sincerely yours,

Walter L. Pforzheimer  
Legislative Counsel

OGC:WLP/blc

Orig. - Add.

2 - Signer

1 - DCI ✓

DOCUMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒  
☐ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. SYMBOL TO: TS 3  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTH: WG 10-2  
DATE 29 APR 1981 REVIEWER: \_\_\_\_\_

STAT